

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

PURCHASING AND PAYMENT PROCESSES

FY 1998 ELECTRONIC COMMERCE ACTIVITIES REPORT

This report follows the basic format of the November 24, 1998, OMB memorandum request for submission of this document. The format sections are indicated by italics and bold.

A. EFFORTS RELATED TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE BUILDING BLOCKS

The activities (building blocks) identified in the government-wide strategic plan, Electronic Commerce for Buyers and Sellers, include:

1. Expanding and enhancing electronic catalog purchasing, by increasing interoperability as feasible, linking to payment utilities, and migrating to commercial catalog solutions.

Virtually all Treasury bureaus have made use of electronic catalogs for purchasing of goods and services. As feasible and compatible with bureau policy, procurement customers have used electronic catalogs for both pricing information and purchasing. Electronic catalogs coupled with the Purchase Card have proven to be an excellent combination to reasonably delegate simple purchasing activity to customers. Bureaus have used electronic catalogs ranging from GSA Advantage!, UNICOR's On-Line Shopping Catalog, the NASA SEWP II contract, and the National Industries for the Blind catalog to a wide variety of such catalogs available from industry. A number of these have been located through the Thomas Register for American Manufacturers.

2. Increasing and improving the use of electronic payment utilities through purchase card implementation for account management, invoice and remittance processing and intra-governmental transfers.

Every bureau has internally promoted delegation of simplified acquisition up to \$2,500 per transaction to customer Purchase Cardholders. Based on official savings formulas, millions of dollars have been saved within Treasury through this single mechanism. Several bureaus have successfully implemented expanded customer Purchase Card use, some as high as \$25,000 per transaction. Such customers must be trained in simplified acquisition and have their files audited, but the initiative has achieved great customer satisfaction. With the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) initiative, all bureau procurement

offices have diligently collaborated with their paying offices to provide vendor data to their finance offices in order to accomplish higher EFT percentages.

Purchase card use is expanding to placing large dollar orders against contracts. IRS has a contract in place where specially trained end users place orders for IT equipment/supplies up to \$100,000 using a purchase card. Customs plans to use the card for even higher dollar orders.

The Customs Service has been quite active in this building block area, and their report should be referenced at [Tab 12](#).

The Financial Management Service (FMS) of the Treasury Department has provided support to the department and the whole federal government on the electronic payments initiative. In light of this, below is a summary of their several related initiatives as stated in their bureau report.

a. USA Card. FMS developed the USA Card for intra-governmental funds transfers, to be used by agencies purchasing goods and services from other agencies. It supports the movement of funds between agencies for a cost of \$0.95 per transaction. Federal funds do not leave the government. Settlement is accomplished by debiting and crediting agency accounts in the On-line Payments and Collections System (OPAC) and agencies have access to the information in the OPAC system.

b. Intra-Governmental Transfer System (IGOTS). Leveraging electronic card processing solutions already in place with the Plastic Card Network (PCN - includes USA Card) and the GSA Smart Pay contract, the FMS is developing a "Consolidator" system to act as a clearinghouse for the flow of Intra-Governmental Transfers which are the result of GSA SmartPay transactions between two government agencies. This system will keep agency-to-agency payments within the government. Book-entry settlement will be accomplished at the ALC level, and will additionally provide the capability for the same card to be used commercially outside the Federal government. The transaction data will be modified to include additional accounting data (the fund symbol) to assist agencies in the timely and proper recording of transactions and the capture of trading partner information. Intra-Governmental Transfer is defined as "collections from expenditure accounts that are deposited into expenditure or receipt accounts".

c. CASH-LINK. The Federal Government's collection system supports invoice and remittance processing. This collection system, through the Agency Access program, makes deposit data available to agencies the day after a deposit is made to their accounts. FEDWIRE payment data is available immediately and is often used to confirm payment for goods and services before goods are released or services performed. A new system being developed will include agency remittance detail that will further enhance remittance processing and financial reporting.

d. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Pilots are underway for an agency to receive both funds and remittance advice/details electronically. For example, there is a

HUD pilot with Countrywide Mortgage Company. Countrywide remits payments and account management data together in one transmission, electronically. FMS researches and writes standards and policy for government agencies to implement and to use commercial EDI to standardize information for account management, invoice and remittance processing and intra governmental transfers.

e. Plastic Card Network (PCN). Credit and debit plastic card accounts established for use by all Federal agencies. All PCN accounts are set up and maintained by FMS at designated commercial banks. The PCN also includes the most economical USA Card developed exclusively for use by Federal agencies buying and selling with other agencies. Operating policies, contracts and all fees associated with the use of these accounts are provided by the FMS.

f. On-Line Payment and Collections (OPAC). This electronic program allows agencies to transfer large, fiduciary type payments between governmental entities. Federal Funds do not leave the government. Settlement is accomplished by debiting and crediting agency accounts at the ALC level and agencies have on-line access to their information using the OPAC system. OPAC is currently undergoing a revision to improve its features and make it Internet-based.

g. Internet Credit Card Collections. FMS established a program to set up sites for Federal agencies to accept credit card payments on line for the acquisition of government goods or services. For example, individuals may remit donations or buy goods sold to raise funds. The American Battlefields Commission (Bob Dole Chairman) allows the use of any commercial credit card over the Internet. The American Battlefields Commission is building the World War II monument.

h. Electronic signatures. In a pilot project, FMS is working with the Bureau of the Public Debt to offer its on-line store (<http://moneyfactory.com> sells currency and related collectibles) to consumers worldwide who are able to make purchases over the Internet. FMS hopes to determine whether this technology will foster secure on-line Internet commerce at government web sites. The test uses a smart card that contains an embedded chip that holds not only account information but the digital signature which provides authentication. This project incorporates elliptic curve cryptography into the Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) protocol, a technology developed to secure credit card transactions on the Internet. The elliptic curve cryptography is an alternative public key crypto system for performing digital signatures, encryption and other security functions. Smart cards are used to secure the private cryptographic keys of the credit card holders and hardware encryption devices are used to secure the cryptographic keys at the merchant servers. During May 1998, BEP's Internet site had 22,000 visitors who made over 112,000 requests for information.

i. Electronic Checks (E-checks). This pilot program in partnership with the Pentagon disburses payments via electronic checks over the Internet to 50 government contractors. It is the result of three years of research by the Financial Services Technology Consortium (FSTC), a group of financial institutions, national laboratories,

universities and federal agencies. Government suppliers are paid with electronic checks sent through secure Internet electronic mail. The receiving companies will be able to endorse them with a digital signature and forward them to their banks for rapid deposit. The depositing bank will electronically present the electronic checks to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston employing traditional check clearing and settlement procedures. A major benefit of electronic check technology is that payment information (remittance data to government vendors so they can account for EFT payments) can accompany the electronic check.

j. Smart Cards. Stored value, plastic cards embedded with a computer chip are being used in numerous pilot projects to pay the military. A project at Fort Sill Oklahoma includes fingerprint identification (biometric sensor used at point of sale) and verification for purchases in order to increase security should the cards be lost. With this enhancement, soldiers do not have to remember a PIN. Working with DFAS at Lackland Air Force Base, the scope included integrating mainframe payments and registration systems to confirm the arrival, complete registration and disburse \$250.00 as a pay advance. In a project with the Veterans Administration, smart cards are used to place Visa Cash in the hands of patients, physicians, visitors and volunteers as well as employees of VA facilities. During this pilot, 25,000 cards were issued and served also as an identification badge, electronic purse, and vending machine and ATM card.

3. Migrating to standard commercial services for electronic identification and authentication of buyers and sellers (including the use of commercial risk structures) as well as for management of information about sellers as appropriate.

The Financial Management Service has led the department in this area. Card Technology Division Pilots are presently testing digital certificates and Public Key/Private Key encryption for application within the Federal Government. Other pilots include Smart Cards used for salary payments to US Military members, and cards used in VA hospitals for small purchases and electronic checks.

FACNET continues to be used, and therefore, identification/authentication standards of this system as mediated by the Value Added Network services are still used.

4. Making contract formation and administration easier and more effective for buyers and sellers (including small businesses), through use, among other things, of electronic market research tools, and participation in pilot efforts to enable sellers to gain electronic access to government business opportunities through a single, government-wide point of entry.

In terms of contract formation, combined synopsis/solicitations are frequently issued electronically using simplified acquisition and commercial item procedures up to \$5 million transactions. Using existing government contracts to form delivery or task orders rather than award new initial contracts is favored strongly. Where new contracts must be formed, use of electronic draft RFPs for industry comment and extensive pre-solicitation industry communication ensures a thorough understanding by industry of government

requirements. Email communications have become pronounced in this exchange, greatly facilitating mutual understanding. Simplified proposal evaluation criteria are used wherever possible. Information on contractor past performance is obtained from the NIH Past Performance Database system in which all Treasury participates.

Issues have arisen across the department about lack of Internet access, limited access, and slowness of access. There are a variety of security firewalls and transmission line bandwidth issues behind this problem. They are being surveyed and resolved with the assistance of the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Only one bureau has significantly restricted Internet access, but all suffer from slow transmission. Virtually all procurement specialists receive training in use of the Internet for market research, involving worthwhile web sites as well as familiarity with search and meta-search engines. Procurement specialists are encouraged to begin working with the customer early in the requirements development phase and to assist directly with electronic market research in order to assist the customer better and personally learn more about the marketplace environment of the requirement.

During the contract administration phase, electronic management of modifications is standard. Information about contractor performance is entered into the NIH Past Performance Database system.

Internet World Wide Web (WWW) sites of most bureaus have procurement office pages which offer forecasted contracting opportunities directly or by hyperlink to the Treasury Office of Small Business Development (OSBD) web site which includes opportunity forecasts from all bureaus. Additionally, the web pages offer useful information for contacting and relating to bureau procurement operations. The Office of Procurement intranet web site is in process of being significantly improved and changed from a static to dynamic site with critical information for bureau management and contract specialist use. This includes essential information relating to the new Treasury Card Services Program under Citibank. The Office of Procurement Internet site has also been greatly enhanced to deliver better information to vendors especially. It includes Procurement Instruction Notices, Treasury Procurement Newsletter publications, policy and procedure, the Department of Treasury Acquisition Regulation, and Treasury Directives.

Two bureaus, the US Secret Service and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, are currently fully operational on the GSA Electronic Posting Service (EPS - see [Tab 17](#) for an EPS fact sheet). The EPS permits fully electronic posting of synopses and solicitations, as well as simplified acquisitions, using the Internet and a browser.

In the Financial Management Service, the “FMS in touch” intranet provides easy, one point of entry access to many FMS systems. For example, agencies can access CASH-LINK to see if payments have been received in their accounts prior to releasing goods or they can check transactions in OPAC to confirm intra government funds transfers and to obtain reconciliation data.

FMS Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Invitations for Expressions of Interest (IEI) preceded by commercial notices in industry publications, are posted on web pages on the Internet for open access and communication of questions and answers among all parties. This alone has saved thousands of dollars in handling and personnel costs. The site also has an email sign up system that allows contractors to receive emails when the procurement page is updated.

Item A.2.i., Electronic Checks, above details the method by which the FMS plans to permit government remittance information to be provided to vendors so that they can account for EFT payments.

5. Using contract writing systems, where appropriate, to automate buying related business functions.

All but two bureaus presently have fully operational procurement automation software applications (either developed in-house or commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)) that accomplish efficient contract writing. Most of these manage both simplified acquisition and contracting. Most develop critical SF-279 and SF-281 procurement statistics for transmission to the Federal Procurement Data Center (FPDC) through the Treasury Procurement Data System (TPDS). During 1999, the remaining two bureaus will implement full capacity procurement automation systems for contract formation and agency-to-vendor electronic commerce.

Some of the bureaus utilize secondary procurement automation systems to accomplish greater office automation. Also, some of the contract writing systems interface with the respective bureau finance systems.

Bureau representatives participate on the manufacturers' user groups of the contract writing systems in order to resolve problems and encourage innovation.

ProNET (<http://pro-net.sba.gov>) is the Small Business Administration database of small business prospective contractors. Treasury small business specialists and procurement specialists access lists of qualified firms, which are then pursued regarding procurement opportunities.

The Department of the Treasury web site (<http://www.treas.gov>) contains a contractor profile database for contractors to register for procurement opportunities.

The bureaus typically obtain all Service Contract Act and Davis Bacon Act wage determinations electronically from the Department of Labor. Procurement specialists access the GSA web page for the "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs."

The IRS Integrated Procurement System (IPS) provides an automated contract writing tool that allows IRS Procurement users to generate contractual documents with current FAR and IRS local clauses, assembled into a consistent contract format. IRS

Procurement is enhancing this process by using web-based technology. The first phase for this enhancement is scheduled for implementation in July 1999.

The Customs Service publicized 73 transactions through CBDEXpress in FY 1998. CBDEXpress transmits synopses to the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) via electronic transmission. The Customs Service is committed to posting 100 percent of its CBD announcements electronically.

Customs has utilized FACNET for acquisitions over the micro-purchase threshold but under the simplified acquisition threshold. Most contract awards at the Customs Service using FACNET were for the one-time purchase of supplies or equipment. FACNET provides for the offeror to receive a request for proposal, submit an offer, and receive an order electronically. Fifty-seven orders were issued through FACNET in FY 1998, amounting to \$2,131,814.

Customs used IDEAS (Interior Department Electronic Acquisition System) to electronically send and receive bids and issue awards via FACNET. IDEAS was installed on a Customs LAN and linked to FACNET via a gateway.

The USCS Procurement Division has instituted ProcureNET, which is accessed through the Customs Service web page (<http://www.treas.customs.gov>). ProcureNET is the acquisition home page of the Customs Service. Information posted to ProcureNET includes contract opportunities and several solicitation packages.

Customs participates in monthly vendor outreach sessions with small business concerns, and also participates in Treasury's Partnership conferences, etc. The vendor outreach sessions are posted on the Treasury web site (<http://www.treas.gov>).

The USCS Procurement Division published an Internet Directory (August 1998) for use by its employees. It provides Internet addresses in the following categories: (1) Federal Government agencies; (2) production/data input/work-related web sites that are used to conduct business and perform procurement duties (e.g., the NIH contractor performance system database, CBD Express, etc.); (3) acquisition research sites; (4) professional development; and (5) miscellaneous.

USCS Purchase Card training emphasizes World Wide Web sites for the Federal Prison Industry (<http://www.unicor.gov>), Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (<http://www.jwod.gov>), and the General Services Administration (GSA) (<http://www.fss.gsa.gov>). The Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled web page has hot links to the National Industries for the Blind and National Institute for Severely Handicapped web pages. GSA Advantage! is an on-line electronic catalog that Purchase Card holders can utilize for ordering various supplies from GSA.

6. Using standard interfaces between agency systems and commercial systems, including for accounting and reporting, and increasing access to EC performance information.

Every effort is exerted to electronically interface agency systems with commercial systems, consistent with access needs, security, and privacy requirements. Legacy commercial-of-the-shelf (COTS) applications used by the department's systems were traditionally not designed to interface with each other or private industry systems. Yet, some bureaus have succeeded in accomplishing interfaces.

More bureaus are beginning to look to federal procurement COTS applications, such as American Management Systems' (AMS) Procurement Desktop, which also have a strong financial sister application, such as AMS Momentum. Within the next eight months, four bureaus will be using this integrated product line. It will be closely reviewed for its performance outcome.

FMS already has the benefit of the integration of procurement and financial applications. Virtually all others plan to have it in the future.

7. Fostering government and commercial/private EC partnerships.

Treasury attempts to collaborate with other governmental agencies for procurement and payments initiatives through such groups as the Procurement Executives Council, the Interagency Acquisition Internet Council, the Electronic Processes Initiatives Committee, the GSA EC Working Group, the Smart Card Forum, the Financial Services Technical Consortium, the Finance Functional Work Group, the Financial Electronic Commerce Council, and others. Through contractors forums and industry groups, Treasury attempts to convert as many processes to the electronic medium as possible, as exemplified by the extensive progress of EFT.

B. ADDITIONAL EFFORTS. Agencies should describe efforts they are undertaking in furtherance of Section 30(c) of the OFPP Act, 41 U.S.C. 426(c), to the extent such efforts are not otherwise discussed in the response to paragraph (A), above. In addition agencies should provide data that they have collected which would support the requirements of Section 30(e)(4) of the OFPP Act, 41 U.S.C. 426(e)(4) and discuss obstacles they are encountering in the collection of such information.

This section (items 1 – 4) addresses the efforts relating to Section 30(c) of the OFPP Act.

How Agency Procedures Ensure . . .

1. Uniformity of EC implementation and use in your organization.

The Treasury Office of Information Systems under the Treasury CIO provides a common information technology infrastructure that serves as the foundation for EC. (See **Tab 15**.) This infrastructure supports a wide range of procurement, payment and other EC business activities. (See **Tab 16**.)

The Treasury Office of Procurement ensures uniformity of EC implementation as necessary to accomplish business missions and tasks. Each bureau has considerable independence to adopt EC procurement applications and technologies to satisfy its specific needs. The diversity of procurement approaches permit a greater awareness of desirable features for such systems. The Treasury Office of Procurement is pursuing electronic interfaces between key bureau systems and itself. Thus, all essential bureau information will be available.

For the IRS, the Assistant Commissioner (Procurement) is in charge of EC uniformity service-wide. All IRS Procurement Office Directors are involved in the process of ensuring that the procurement web site meets EC systems, policy and other requirements related to the acquisition of goods and services for the IRS. In addition, IRS Procurement has developed an 11-page formalized Policy and Procedures (P&P) Memorandum, Number 4.5, on "Acquisitions Using The Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET)." The P&P, signed by the Director, Office of Procurement Policy, establishes policy and procedures for use of the FACNET to purchase equipment and supplies. Similar procedures and guidelines will be formalized for usage of the procurement web site and its GSA Electronic Posting System (EPS) interface once they are finalized.

2. Consideration is given to use of existing EC systems before developing new ones.

Treasury bureaus and the departmental offices always give consideration to existing EC systems before developing new ones. Applications developed by other agencies are given prime consideration since there are usually significant economies to be achieved by adoption of such systems. In addition, every effort is made to acquire commercial-off-the-shelf products and then customize them only as much as is necessary.

3. Facilitation of access to Federal Government procurement opportunities, including opportunities for small business concerns, socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, and business concerns owned predominately by women.

Treasury procurement opportunities are posted by law with the CBD, usually through bureau use of CBDNet. However, bureaus often post their opportunities on their own procurement web pages as well, offering synopses and/or full solicitations. Two bureaus used the GSA Electronic Posting System (EPS) during FY1998. The Office

of Small Business Development (OSBD) is closely allied with the Treasury procurement offices. It lists all Treasury procurement opportunity forecasts on its web page, and strongly encourages small businesses to register with EPS. The intent is to migrate all Treasury to EPS during FY 1999.

As a bureau example, the IRS advises potential vendors to register on SBA's PRONet system. In addition to using the CBDNet for procurement notices, the IRS has posted solicitations for several acquisitions, including the Prime, on the IRS procurement web site. Further, the IRS has developed a tri-fold brochure, as well as a 20-page handbook, on the "Use of Electronic Commerce in the Procurement Process." The brochure and handbook are distributed to small, disadvantaged and woman-owned firms at procurement conferences, expositions, and one-on-one counseling sessions, which are provided weekly by IRS Procurement. Potential vendors may access the Handbook electronically from the IRS Procurement web site. General information regarding the local Fairfax Electronic Commerce Resource Center (ECRC) is also distributed to small business concerns as an additional resource for electronic commerce requirements of other federal agencies. Any further electronic commerce related questions from small business concerns are addressed by the IRS small business specialist on a case-by-case basis. Finally, the IRS uses FACNET for solicitations and award of certain supplies under the simplified acquisition threshold.

4. Notice of agency requirements or solicitations is provided in a form that allows convenient and universal user access through a single, Government-wide point of entry.

Treasury currently allows for user access to its opportunities through the CBD for requirements exceeding \$25,000 which are open market. The single Government-wide point of entry is expected to become EPS for Treasury and the whole federal sector. (See item (3) immediately above.)

Relative to Section 30(e)(4) of the OFPP Act ...

Virtually all Treasury procurement transactions use electronic commerce in their processing, according to the OFPP Act definition. This annually consists of approximately \$2.6 billion for nearly 15,000 transactions over \$25,000 each, and approximately \$67 million for nearly 21,000 transactions up to \$25,000, excluding Purchase Card transactions. Purchase Card transactions number about 457,000 valued at approximately \$132 million. The extent of electronic commerce used in transactional processes depends on the bureau, transaction type, and contractor involved.

C. PARTICIPATION IN INTERAGENCY GROUPS. Agencies are asked to identify the interagency electronic commerce (EC) groups on which they participated in FY 1998. They should discuss how this participation helped to further EC implementation in their agency and how, if at all, the operation and structure of these groups can be improved.

Treasury personnel among the bureaus and departmental offices have participated on the following EC groups during FY 1998:

1. The Electronic Processes Initiatives Committee (EPIC).
2. The Finance Functional Work Group (FFWG). (This Federal organization customizes commercial EDI formats for use by Federal government agencies.)
3. The Financial Electronic Commerce Council (formerly the Bankers EDI Council).
4. The ANSI X 12 Committee.
5. The Federal Smart Card Users Group.
6. The Federal Smart Card Managers Users Group, chaired by John Moore of FMS.
7. The Interagency Acquisition Internet Council.
8. The GSA EC Working Group.
9. The Federal EC Coordinators Committee.
10. The EPS Working Group.
11. The Financial Services Technology Consortium.
12. The Smart Card Forum.
13. The Financial Implementation Team for Electronic Commerce (FITEC).
14. The Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Interagency Group.
15. The Intragovernmental Transfers (IGOTS) Group.

Participation in these groups is critical to efficient interdepartmental collaboration and joint ventures to explore and develop systems. They also offer the opportunity to learn about the performance of various contractors and their products relative to EC.

There are a wide variety of groups, and often the same Treasury representative sits on several. There does appear to be overlap, and some redundancy. However, it is important not to stifle innovative efforts.

At least initially, we advise that each EC group post to a central location their summaries of their projects that are underway, as well as those planned. It should be done in such a way that they may easily enter status update information after each meeting, or simply post their minutes. The location for this posting should be determined by the Procurement Executives Council, the CIO Council and the CFO council. This level of consistent, standardized sharing should result in a natural consolidation process and avoidance of redundancy among groups, without a stifling of initiative.

D. VENDOR DATA COLLECTION AND USE

1. What vendor data is collected as part of purchasing and payment processes?

- a. Contractor's Taxpayer Identification Number;
- b. Contractor's Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) data, including contractor name and remittance address; account number at the contractor's financial agent; signature, title and phone number of authorized contractor official; and name, address, and 9-digit Routing Transit Number of the contractor's financial agent; and
- c. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number.

2. How is the data collected?

Although there are variations among the bureaus, most data is collected directly from contractors through document submissions as well as from financial intermediaries, the CCR, the PRONet, Dun & Bradstreet, and other standardized sources.

Typically, bureaus initially collect contractor data through the solicitation process on a contract-by-contract basis. Thereafter, the data is consolidated in a centrally controlled vendor file within the automated procurement software application. If the bureau's procurement system interfaces with the finance system, it is shared for financial operations as well.

Most Treasury bureaus with even the most basic contract writing systems capture vendor data within those systems for internal reuse, although few electronically share the data with their respective bureau financial systems.

3. How is the data used?

The data is used to determine small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses. TIN data is used for IRS 1099 reporting and debt collection. EFT data is used to make

electronic payments to contractors in order to satisfy Government prompt pay requirements. The DUNS data is used for Federal Procurement Data System reporting.

4. How do the databases used to collect vendor data integrate with other internal agency systems (especially financial systems), and with external Federal databases (e.g., the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) or Department of Treasury financial systems)?

Only four of twelve bureau procurement automation systems currently interface with their respective financial systems. But, each of the remaining eight bureaus have such interfaces or full integration as a goal. At this time, no bureau procurement automation system interfaces with the Treasury Procurement Data System (TPDS) which is the collection system for electronic submission to the FPDS. After the replacement (Treasury Acquisition Data System, TADS) for TPDS is implemented during FY 2000, each bureau intends to develop an electronic interface. Additionally, each bureau plans to assess the feasibility of an electronic interface with EPS.